

Nat'l Conference of State Legislators Convening in Salt Lake City

This year the annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) will be meeting in Salt Lake City. State legislators from all across the country will convene for panels and sessions on issues facing states and their legislative bodies. Working with Representative Sheryl Allen, the Utah Film Commission was able to put the discussion of motion picture incentives on as a formal session in the program. The information from the participants should be helpful as we continue to push for more incentives in Utah in the future. Members of the Utah Motion Picture Task Force will be able to attend.

The following is the discussion of the panel and the participants from the formal NCSL program.

Hollywood, Bollywood or Canada: Is America Losing the Film Industry?

For years, Hollywood was where movies were made. But a growing number of studios are filming movies abroad; here labor and production costs are less. The resulting job and revenue loss is substantial, given that the film industry is one of this country's biggest exports. But states are taking the initiative and fighting back. This session will focus on state initiatives to encourage local film production and its role as an economic development tool. Session will be held July 21 in the Salt Palace.

Presiding: Nelson Fox, Fiscal Division Chief, State and Local Government and Transportation Group, Legislative Service Commission, Ohio and Staff Vice Chair, Economic Development, Trade & Cultural Affairs Committee, NCSL

Speakers: Melissa Gilbert, President, Screen Actors' Guild, California; Angela Miele, Vice President for State and Local Tax Policy, Motion Picture Association of America, District of Columbia; Lisa Rawlins, Senior Vice President for Studio and Production Affairs, for Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc., California

*Melissa Gilbert,
Screen Actors' Guild, President*



Motion Picture Task Force Names Members

Members of the Motion Picture Task Force have convened to review what can be done to make Utah more competitive in attracting production to the state. Representative Sheryl Allen and Senator James Evans Co-Chair the task force made up of other legislators Senator Ron Allen (Sponsor of SB 240 which created the Task Force), Representative Dana C. Love, Senator Parley Hallewell and Representative Karen W. Morgan.

The task force also includes representatives from the motion picture industry, public at large, and other governmental agencies. Those members include: Bryan Clifton, Redman Movies and Stories; Al Henderson, Independent Producer; Jeff Simpson, Excel Entertainment; Katy Sine, MPAU; Alesia Bischoff, representing the public; Jim Olsen, Utah Retail Merchants Association; SL City Council Member Dave Buhler; County Commissioner Steve White; Roger Browne, public at large and Leigh von der Esch from UFC. Additional meetings will be held monthly and the public is welcome to attend. The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for the same day as the NCSL film incentive panel. For more information regarding the task force, you can look up the bill and task force schedule at <http://le.utah.gov>.

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The hotline is updated
weekly.

film.utah.gov

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Governor's Economic Development Board Approves IAF Criteria and First Application

In conjunction with the Motion Picture Task Force and new legislation regarding the Industrial Assistance Fund, the Governor's Economic Development Board has approved the criteria and \$1,000,000 in funding for a demonstration financial incentive program for the motion picture industry. The criteria was developed by Mark Renda, Director of the Industrial Assistance Fund Program and the Utah Film Commission working with input from the motion picture industry. UFC and Econ. Board members are excited to have the money to fund this most important demonstration program for financial incentives. In addition to encouraging new productions to the state, UFC hopes to collect economic data on the use of the funds, the program and the projects that come into the state. This data will help the Motion Picture Task Force craft future programs or legislation that will make Utah more competitive in luring production in the future. The IAF fund is available to in-state and out-of-state productions until the funds are depleted. The first film application approved is for Salty Picture, Inc.'s "Buffalo Dreams".

The following is the application process and the criteria:

Application Process

1. Contact Utah Film Commission.
2. Staff reviews script and project for recommendations.
3. Application and Business Plan are submitted by the company.
4. DBED Board reviews the application for approval. Key fiscal indicators and project considerations that affect Board decision making:
 - a) Job creation (jobs that pay higher than prevailing wage), total jobs as a percentage of hires and payroll taxes.
 - b) Purchases, leases and rentals from Utah vendors and taxable sales.
 - c) Total dollars left in the state as a percentage of the project.
 - d) Identification of the State of Utah and branding opportunities.
5. Commitment letter sent to the company for acceptance of offer.
6. Company accepts the offer and begins the contract process with state.
7. Contract to be established.
8. Post Performance report is submitted by the company after completion of filming activities in Utah.
9. Post Performance report is audited by staff and certified as to receipts of purchases, rentals, leases, payroll and payroll taxes made in the state.
10. Disbursement check is cut for company.

Total Film Production Budget	Film Production Project Categories	High Fiscal Impact Criteria At least 60% of Payroll and Taxable Purchases are made in Utah.	Moderate Fiscal Impact Criteria Less than 60% of Payroll and Taxable Purchases are made in Utah.
\$10 million +	Major Feature Film Utah-Based TV Series	10% of Dollars Left in State	Prorated share of 10% of Dollars Left in State. * If 50% of payroll and taxable purchases were made in Utah, then the incentive would be 8% of total Dollars Left in State. Dollar cap would be \$500,000
\$3 – \$10 million	Indigenous Utah Film Made for TV Movie	10% of Dollars Left in State	Prorated share of 10% of Dollars Left in State. * If 50% of payroll and taxable purchases were made in Utah, then the incentive would be 8% of total Dollars Left in State. Dollar Cap would be \$250,000
\$1 - \$3 million	TV Pilots Other Episodic TV	10% of Dollars Left in State	Prorated share of 10% of Dollars Left in State. * If 50% of payroll and taxable purchases were made in Utah, then the incentive would be 8% of total Dollars Left in State. Dollar Cap would be \$250,000 per MOW \$100,000 per Episode - \$500,000 Episodic Series Cap
Less than \$1 million	Commercials	10% of Dollars Left in State	Prorated share of 10% of Dollars Left in State. * If 50% of payroll and taxable purchases were made in Utah, then the incentive would be 8% of total Dollars Left in State.

- Use blended rate of Payroll and Taxable Purchases to calculate pro-ration percentages.
- NOTE: 10% will increase to 12% if project storyline is set in Utah. Episodic TV for pilot and first season only.

UFC Sponsors Film Lab Reception



The Utah Film Commission hosted the reception of this year's Sundance Film Lab. In attendance were the filmmakers as well as actors who were there as advisors or as volunteers to act in one of the projects. Founded by Robert Redford in 1981, Sundance Institute is dedicated to the development of artists of independent vision and the exhibition of their new work.

Sundance Institute selected 13 projects for the annual June Filmmakers and Screenwriters Labs, which took place at the Sundance Village. The Labs offer emerging directors and screenwriters an opportunity to develop new work under the guidance of experienced filmmakers in an environment that encourages collaboration, innovation, and risk-taking.

This year's Filmmakers Lab ran May 25 – June 24. During the first three weeks of the program, the selected eight filmmakers collaborated with professional actors and video production crews, shooting and editing key scenes from their scripts.

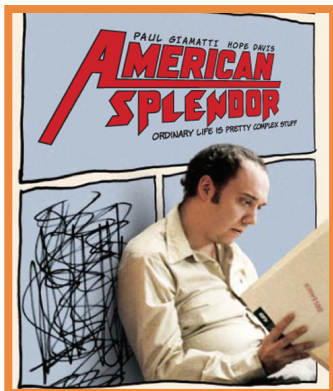
Through this hands-on process, the directors can do a "dress rehearsal" of their material in an atmosphere where experimentation is encouraged. Filmmaker Lab participants also took part in the week-long Screenwriters Lab, when writers involved with five additional projects join the group to participate in one-on-one story conferences with established screenwriters.

Robert Redford and Vinny Vella (Sopranos) at the UFC Reception for the Sundance Institute



Hope to Speak at Next UFC Industry Luncheon

The Utah Film Commission, SLC Film Center and Utah Symphony and Opera are happy to welcome Producer Ted Hope July 22-26th. Join us for lunch and "A Conversation With Ted Hope" moderated by Leigh von der Esch on Thursday July 22nd at the Salt Lake City Library at noon. (Details will be sent in a separate flyer and posted on the web). Multiple award-winner Ted Hope will sit and discuss his storied career and the changing landscape of film production with an audience Q&A to follow.



Ted Hope, together with partners Anthony Bregman and Anne Carey, runs the New York production company This is That, formed out of the production and development arms of the groundbreaking Good Machine. This is that's initial year yielded three features: Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's 21 Grams, Michel Gondry and Charlie Kaufman's Eternal Sunshine Of The Spotless Mind and Kip Williams' The Door In The Floor. He is in Utah as an Artist in residence of the Salt Lake City Film Center, which will be showing a retrospective of his work with Director Ang Lee on Wednesday the 21st and premiering his newest film Door In The Floor, starring Kim Basinger on Thursday July 22nd. On Friday July 23rd he will be co-hosting a pre-concert lecture with Maestro Keith Lockhardt at Sundance's outdoor Eccles Theater. Keith will be conducting the score from Crouching Dragon Hidden Tiger to never seen before footage.

Recently Hope played a key role in the organization of the successful campaign in opposition to the MPAA's Screener Ban and is in post-production on Mike Mills' Thumbsucker (starring Tilda Swinton, Vince Vaughn, Keanu Reeves, Vincent D'Onofrio & Benjamin Bratt) and John Waters' A

Dirty Shame (starring Johnny Knoxville, Tracey Ullman, Selma Blair & Chris Isaak).

Please read Mr. Hope's insightful essay on the state of independent films in the Filmmaker link as well as how he opposed the MPAA's Screener Ban in the Observer link:

http://www.filmmakermagazine.com/fall1995/dead_film.html

<http://www.observer.com/pages/story.asp?ID=8384>

Company Spotlight—Lumenas Pictures



Lumenas Pictures (www.lumenas.com) is located in the heart of Salt Lake City at the Utah State Fair Park. With three large animation bays, workshop area, and a computer effects department, the award-winning team of writers, animators, producers and artists has created an open environment for those interested in touring the facility or learning more about filmmaking. Lumenas is the first media company to locate to the Utah State Fair Park, and has partnered with the Fair Park to offer an interactive children's animation tour and museum which Currently in production is "The Storyteller's Book of Fantastical Fables: Davie and Golimyr". Blending stop-motion filmmaking, digital effects, and a narrative rhyming style, this direct to DVD release will be available late 2004. "Davie and Golimyr" is inspired by the story of David and Goliath, placed in the renowned fantasy world of James C. Christensen. This 45 minute, direct to DVD title has the warm familiarity of classic stop-motion storytelling, enhanced by state-of-the-art digital effects. Through the construction of elaborate and detailed sets and characters, the film contains a richness that would be too costly for traditional 3D animation. This is the first episode in an ongoing series of titles.

A second series, "Prophets and Parables", is also under development. The first title, "Jonah: A Great Fish Story" is a 20 minute adaptation of the Old Testament Story and will be released soon.

"Lumenas" comes from the Latin "Lumen" which means "light of day" or "the light of life".

For information please contact Darin McDaniel at 801-953.6370



Shorts Shown at 'Fear No Film' Festival



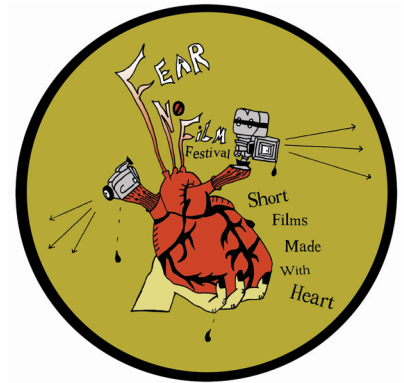
Amy Caron's first "official" FNF Festival was held at the SLC Library during the Arts Festival in June. She plans to hold these festivals every year during the Arts Festival. This year's winners:

Student Competition- "N.Judah 5:30" (Sam Green, California) Experimental

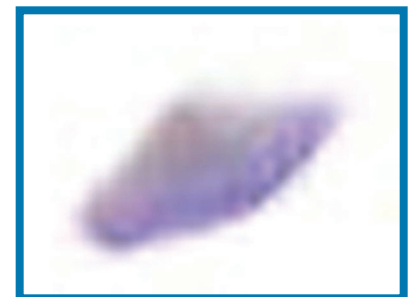
Youth Competition- "Umbrella" (Dalton Rose, Washington) Narrative

Local Competition- "Moonwalk" (Trent Harris, Utah) Experimental

Best of Show- "Run to Jay's" (Brett Spackman, California) Documentary



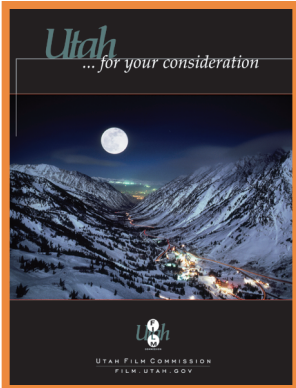
UFC Location Scout Catches Image of UFO



Have you seen the news lately? No press is bad press. When the Utah Film Commission works at marketing Utah, what better way is there than to have others do it for you— even if they are from out of this world? This location photo caught something that has news agencies and UFO enthusiasts going crazy.

On Tuesday, May 18, Tommy Woodard was up by Vivian Park in Provo Canyon taking photos of a girl-scout camp. On the way down South Fork Road, he stopped at a few spots and took several pictures. The very last picture he took is the one in question. He leaned out of the vehicle, took a quick photo and left. He says that he didn't see anything out of the ordinary when taking the picture. Once Tommy returned to the office, he uploaded the pictures onto his computer. When Tommy saw this particular picture, he noticed a little black spec above the tree line. When he zoomed into the spec, it was then when Tommy realized he had caught something of interest. Out of the 100 pictures that Tommy took that day, this is the only one with that object in it (so that rules out a spec of dirt on the lens). This photo has been on news stations nationwide as well as CNN Headline News, newspapers, websites, and talked about on radio shows. What do you think it is?

UTAH FILM COMMISSION WINS ADVERTISING AWARDS



The Utah Film Commission's advertising and marketing pieces were recognized recently for excellence at the Association of Film Commissioners International's Locations Trade Show in Santa Monica, California. Competing against states, provinces and countries worldwide, Utah's full-page color ad (*left*) and direct mail pieces were awarded first prize in the advertising and marketing competition.

"I'm on It!," one of the winners from the Utah Film Commission Commercial Competition took third place in competition with visual campaigns from around the world, produced by ad agencies on far greater budgets than those available to Utah's commercial producers. "Buffalo Football," another commercial from the competition, received honorable mention in Santa Monica.

"We are very pleased that our advertising and marketing pieces consistently are recognized by professionals in the motion picture industry for their effectiveness in advertising the state and showcasing originality," said Leigh von der Esch, director of the Utah Film Commission. "These awards for work done in house by Aaron Syrett and by professionals who produced our commercials for free, show that great creativity and professionalism can outshine merely big budgets."

2nd Annual Salt Lake Children's Film Festival a Success

The 2nd annual Salt Lake Children's Film Festival -- a fund-raiser for the Children's Justice Center of Salt Lake County -- was held at the Megaplex 12 at Gateway in June. The festival is a celebration of family-oriented independent films. Tim Nelson, the festival's co-founder, said "in the early years, when people started producing independent family films, they were trying to get so much into them that they tended to be preachy. Now that the trend is changing, and there's a hungry audience for family movies, they're getting smarter about making the films."

Nelson directed a film that was shown in the festival, "Jumping For Joy". Other movies that were shown include "Ociece Nash", a remake of "Where the Red Fern Grows", and "Race to Space" starring James Woods. The mission of the Festival is to reach children through stories in film that captivate their imagination, inspire their creativity, and empower their spirits without unnecessary violence, profanity, vulgarity, or sexual content.

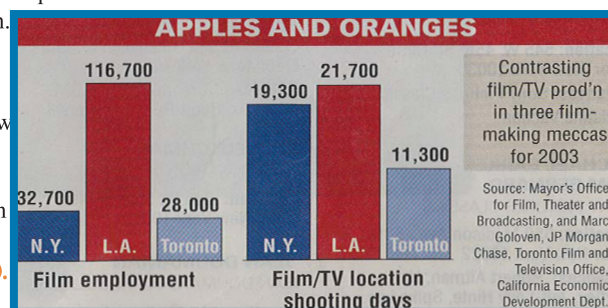
Utah Not Only State Struggling With Canada Lure

By Beth Pinsker of *Daily Variety*

In addressing the subject of runaway production affecting the New York film industry, Edward Burns knows he's part of the problem. "Unfortunately, as an actor, there is not much you can do about it," he says from Nova Scotia. "In my short acting career, I've done two movies in Canada, one in the U.K., one in Prague and only two in the U.S.," he says. InDigEnt founder Gary Winick also knows he's contributing to the downfall of his neighborhood economy since he shot the interiors for his Disney film "13 Going on 30" in Los Angeles even though it's set in Manhattan. "They wouldn't let me do it in New York," he says. Producer Elaine Goldsmith-Thomas sings the same tune from L.A., where she is overseeing post for "Little Black Book," which is set in Gotham but filmed only exteriors in the city. "It was just more cost-effective," Goldsmith-Thomas says. These three represent the current dilemma for New York: Filmmakers involved with stories set in Gotham give lip service to shooting in the city, but not everyone can.

But most of the time, if productions do come, they breeze into town for a few days for establishing shots and fake the interiors elsewhere, mostly in Canada, and then take post-production work to the cheapest bidder. "When you're dummifying the exteriors to look like New York, then you can tell and it looks fake. But when you shoot your exteriors in New York and your interiors elsewhere, you can't," says producer Bill Mechanic, who was doing just that for Walter Salles' "Dark Water," which spent weeks in Toronto and then came to Roosevelt Island in New York for several days.

Utah Comparison for FY 2003: 1100 production days with 1589 crew members (employment).



UFC Spotlight—Adam Abel



Adam Abel's award-winning career began as an intern in the Creative Affairs Group at Paramount Pictures in Hollywood, California. After seeing his talent, they quickly hired him on in a full-time capacity to work with the manager of the Creative Affairs Group. Adam's production experience was developed in the world of independent filmmaking. He was given a myriad of opportunities to work from grunt level positions to management capacities. The pinnacle of his career, to date, came with his maiden voyage as the producer of the award winning SAINTS AND SOLDIERS. His success as a first time producer has grabbed the attention of a handful of Academy Award winning Producers/Directors. All of whom have taken it upon themselves to congratulate Adam personally and offer assistance to him in his next endeavor. Adam is just taking it one day at a time and is very appreciative of such assistance.

In April 2002 Adam Abel and Ryan Little formed their production company, GO FILMS, and started development of SAINTS AND SOLDIERS. They are presently in development on their next three films. Adam's wife, Amber, is his greatest strength. Adam is a father of two kids with a third arriving in October.



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Local Filmmaker Brian Patrick Receives Awards for his film “Burying the Past-Legacy of the Mountain Meadows Massacre”. Among the many awards he has won are ‘Best of State’ and ‘Best of Festival’ for the Broadcast Education Association King Foundation. The composer for the film, Phillip Davis, won ‘Best Musical Score’ at the Park City Film Music Festival.

6th Annual Western Legends Celebration will be held in Kanab August 24-29. Come see Adrian Booth and Bruce Boxleitner, among others, as they are honored as true western legends. You can attend cowboy poetry hearings, listen to authentic songs, see an actual cattle drive down Main Street, and see some of the old westerns that were shot in Kanab.

Playwright Jeffrey Gold’s play “Fitch Todd” has been selected for the Women in Theater (WIT) Play Reading Series, which took place in Hollywood on June 27th. Also, Gold’s play “Execution at Paradise Island” was a finalist in the Playwriting Competition of the 2004 Moondance International Film Festival in Chautauqua Park, Boulder, CO.



The Bicknell International Film Festival will be held July 23-24. Their motto: “Where good things happen to bad movies”. This year’s theme is “The Garden of Film and Evil-Fine Films About What Lurks in the Dirt”. One of the movies that will be showing is the original “Invasion of the Body Snatchers” (*left*).

Joe Camp's
Benji
Off the leash!

in theaters
august 20, 2004
MADE IN UTAH